

I'm at the Atlanta hearing and am disappointed in not being able to speak at the microphone about my opposition to rules that will reduce media diversity. While too bad that there hasn't been enough opportunity for all of us to speak I am pleased that this many people showed up.

I am a physicist and astronomer, and in our research world where Linux predominates because of its reliability, I see first-hand what damage anti-diversity interests do. In the computer field, it's Microsoft, and I don't want what Microsoft does to the computer field happen to the media.

A physicist friend in conservative Utah told me how FCC rules allowed his small group of friends who had only \$500 to get out enough of the truth regarding voters approving an initiative promoted by big hospitals that despite the hospitals fancy ads and large early lead in the polls, conservative Utahns realized the self-interested nature of what the hospitals were pushing, and at the polls the hospitals lost. This happened only because this group of people were able to use FCC equal access requirements. Whether the hospitals or the

Utah physicist and friends were right isn't the point; the point to the FCC is: FCC rules were wisely put into place to promote the diversity of opinion that is important to democracy, and they should be strengthened, not weakened as Chairman Powell desires.